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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 19, 2015  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 891  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 891. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill will create a low interest loan program to assist the livestock and poultry industry renovate their existing structures or construct new infrastructure to ensure they are bio-secure and meet new Federal requirements. The improved bio-secure infrastructures will result in a safer food supply and prevent the spread of livestock and zoonotic diseases amongst wild animals, the herd and humans while helping to ensure that fresh eggs, beef and pork remain available to Hawaii's citizens.

Livestock operations nationwide are facing increasing federal regulations for livestock infrastructure to improve biosecurity. The recent discovery of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus on Oahu demonstrates the need for increased bio-security measures. The discovery of the virus resulted in a quarantine order by the Department and while it does not pose a risk for humans, it causes significant sickness in swine and high mortality for piglets. Increased bio-security measures while reducing the risk for disease transmission will not always result in greater profitability for farmers that need to install the systems or upgrade their facilities. Having access to affordable capital is vital for farmers to make the necessary improvements while remaining solvent and sustainable for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:47 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB891 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB891**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

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February 19, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 891  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB is in support of HB 891** which allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of the most significant challenges is ensuring their livestock facilities are bio-secure compliant with federal regulations. The federal regulations are required to ensure a safe food supply by protecting livestock operations from the introduction of pests, diseases, and pathogens and from the spread of diseases and pathogens to other farms and ranches.

Hawaii's livestock industry is already struggling with the high cost of their operations. The cost of compliance with increased federal regulations could jeopardize their viability. Low interest loans under the Agricultural Loan Program to assist the livestock industry is critical to insure the sustainability of Hawaii's livestock industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.